

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:
SOCIETA ITALIANA BREVETTI S.P.A.
 Attn. Bardini, Marco L.
 25, Corso dei Tintori
 I-50122 Firenze
 ITALY

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
 THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
 THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
 SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

<p>Applicant's or agent's file reference BW36F</p> <p>International application No. PCT/IT2004/000346</p> <p>Applicant S.I.D.E.A. ITALIA S.R.L.</p>		<p>Date of mailing <i>(day/month/year)</i> 23/02/2005</p> <p>FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below</p> <p>International filing date <i>(day/month/year)</i> 15/06/2004</p>
---	--	--

1. The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Fascimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Reminders**

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until **30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

<p>Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk</p>	<p>Authorized officer Veronica Bordin</p>
--	---

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the International application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/ is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference BW36F	FOR FURTHER ACTION		see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/IT2004/000346	International filing date (day/month/year) 15/06/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)	
Applicant S.I.D.E.A. ITALIA S.R.L.			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

as suggested by the applicant.

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IT2004/000346

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61L2/10 C02F1/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61L C02F A23L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/096648 A1 (KAISER KLAUS ET AL) 25 July 2002 (2002-07-25) paragraphs '0012!, '0014!, '0017!, '0024! - '0027!, '0030! - '0033!, '0041! - '0043!, '0066!; claims 1-3,6,7 -----	1,3-5
A	US 4 968 437 A (NOLL ET AL) 6 November 1990 (1990-11-06) column 3, lines 10-43 column 5, lines 4-66 column 7, line 68 - column 8, line 5; figures 1,2,15,16 -----	1,3-5
A	US 5 874 741 A (MATSCHKE ET AL) 23 February 1999 (1999-02-23) column 1, line 66 - column 2, line 31 column 4, lines 24-58; figure 2 ----- -/-	1,3,4

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- &* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 February 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

23/02/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2

Authorized officer

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational Application No
PCT/IT2004/000346**C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 378 716 A (TUCKER, ROBERT E) 25 July 1990 (1990-07-25) column 2, lines 10-26 column 4, line 7 - column 5, line 42; figures -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

 International Application No
PCT/IT2004/000346

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002096648	A1	25-07-2002	DE AU CA CN WO EP JP	10056096 A1 1906602 A 2428264 A1 1486282 T 0238502 A1 1339643 A1 2004512912 T	13-06-2002 21-05-2002 16-05-2002 31-03-2004 16-05-2002 03-09-2003 30-04-2004
US 4968437	A	06-11-1990	US AT AU AU CA CN DE DE EP IE IL IN JP JP KR MX NO NZ OA PT WO US	5004541 A 116552 T 601743 B2 7396687 A 1293847 C 87103349 A ,B 3750950 D1 3750950 T2 0267261 A1 68061 B1 82292 A 168752 A1 1500016 T 2974676 B2 9105289 B1 167742 B 880069 A ,B , 220069 A 8594 A 84827 A ,B 8706841 A1 4769131 A	02-04-1991 15-01-1995 20-09-1990 01-12-1987 07-01-1992 25-11-1987 16-02-1995 24-05-1995 18-05-1988 15-05-1996 05-11-1990 01-06-1991 12-01-1989 10-11-1999 24-07-1991 12-04-1993 09-03-1988 28-05-1990 30-11-1988 01-06-1987 19-11-1987 06-09-1988
US 5874741	A	23-02-1999	CA US	2247652 A1 5612001 A	17-03-2000 18-03-1997
EP 0378716	A	25-07-1990	CA US EP ES	1320813 C 4798702 A 0378716 A1 2048772 T3	03-08-1993 17-01-1989 25-07-1990 01-04-1994

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/IT2004/000346	International filing date (day/month/year) 15.06.2004	Priority date (day/month/year)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61L2/10, C02F1/32			
Applicant S.I.D.E.A. ITALIA S.R.L.			

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA: European Patent Office P.O. Box 8000 D-8035 Munich, Germany	Authorized Officer Maremonti M
---	---------------------------------------



Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IT2004/000346

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-5
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	2
	No: Claims	1,3-5
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-5
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial
applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

- 1.1 The present application does not meet the requirements of the PCT, because the subject-matter of independent claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT. Document US-A-2002/0096648 (D1), which is considered as the most relevant state of the art, discloses (cf. passages cited in the search report) an apparatus for the continuous cold sterilization of fluids, comprising an ultraviolet radiation source and a duct permeable to UV radiation in which the fluid flows, said duct being helically wound around said radiation source. Radiation source and duct are placed within a housing, the inner walls of which are made of an UV reflective material. Obviously a certain gap is present between the exterior of the duct and the interior walls of said housing. The cross-section of the duct can have various forms, among which the oval one is explicitly mentioned. Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the apparatus of D1 only in that it is specified that the helical duct is disposed so to have the major axis of the oval cross-section perpendicular to the irradiation direction.
- 1.2 Through this disposition of the duct, the thickness of the fluid to be irradiated is decreased, so increasing the irradiation efficiency (see p. 5, l. 11-17). As mentioned previously, various forms of the duct cross-section are disclosed in D1. In particular, figures 5 and 6 show a semi-circular and a rectangular cross-section, respectively. An oval form is explicitly mentioned as a possible alternative (cf. par. [0027]). In the embodiments shown in fig. 5 and 6, the duct is always disposed so to have the major length of the cross-section perpendicular to the irradiation direction. As explained in par. [0025] and [0026] of D1, the cross-section of the duct has to be "flattened" towards the radiation source, in order to avoid the attenuation of the UV radiation. Therefore, a skilled person performing the apparatus of D1, and particularly the embodiment with a duct having an oval cross-section, would obviously dispose the duct so to have the major axis of the oval cross-section perpendicular to the irradiation direction in accordance with the reported teaching.
The subject-matter of claim 1 would hence be obtained without the exercise of any inventive skill (Article 33(3) PCT).
- 2.1 Dependent claims 3-5 do not appear to contain any additional feature which, in

combination with the features of claim 1, meets the requirements of the PCT with respect to inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT). In fact, the feature mentioned in claim 4 is known from D1 while the features mentioned in claims 3 and 5 are regarded as to represent obvious design possibilities for a person skilled in the art, also in view of the other documents cited in the search report, and of US-A-4968437 (D2) in particular (cf. passages cited in the search report).

2.2 In claim 2, air circulation slits formed on the walls of the apparatus chamber are defined. This feature, together with the spacing present between the exterior of the duct and the interior walls of the chamber, promotes the air circulation and the heat exchange with the outside. In this way, the temperature of the treated fluid is kept at completely acceptable values also in extreme operating conditions, such as a low fluid demand or when the UV source remains switched on for a long time (see p. 4, l. 30-p. 5, l. 5 and p. 6, l. 5-8). This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested in the presently available prior art. Therefore, claim 2 is regarded as to meet the requirements of Article 33(2) and (3) PCT.

3. The subject-matter of all claims is regarded as to be industrially applicable (Article 33(4) PCT).

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

1. Documents D1 and D2 are not acknowledged in the description (Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT).